



# Press Release

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## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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*To: Editor in Chief  
Newsroom*

May 23, 2006

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
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### **MEDIA NOTE**

## **2006 Doors to Diplomacy Award Winners Announced**

The Department of State is pleased to announce the selection of two winning websites for its 2006 Doors to Diplomacy Award. The awards recognize the websites that best teach about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy. A total of 305 student teams from 46 countries, ranging in age from 15-18, participated in the contest, which was co-sponsored by the Department of State and Global SchoolNet.

The winning sites are:

--Golden Bridges: Connecting People to Peace <<<http://goldenbridges.info>>>: This site, built by a team of students from Florida Virtual School in Orlando, Florida, USA, explores foreign affairs through the infrastructure and dealings of the United Nations.

--Fight Poverty <<<http://www.fightpoverty.mmbrico.com>>>: This site was built by a team of students from Metodi Mitevski Brico School in Delcevo, Macedonia. Their project explores child poverty and ways in which international relations can address the problems that contribute to it.\*

Each student member of the two winning Doors to Diplomacy Award teams will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. In addition, the winning coaches and schools will each receive a \$500 cash award.

This year, an additional, special award is being presented to a team from Mfantshipim School in Ghana. This award recognizes the team's ability to overcome major obstacles to participate in the competition. Their website is entitled Soccer and Its Power <<<http://www.socceranditspower.homestead.com/>>>. A student and teacher at John Muir School in San Diego helped the Ghanaian students with some of the technical aspects of their project.



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Judging was performed by peers and educational professionals, with the final selections made by a team of State Department judges from the Bureaus of Public Affairs and Educational and Cultural Affairs. The winning sites will be linked from the State Department's youth site at [www.future.state.gov](http://www.future.state.gov) <<http://www.future.state.gov>> later this month.

Global SchoolNet <<http://www.globalschoolnet.org/>> is a non-profit, Internet-based education program. The Doors to Diplomacy Award was specially created for CyberFair, a contest that encourages students and educators to join together to build high-quality, educational websites on a variety of topics. These Web site entries will be available on the web as learning tools to millions of people around the globe.

To learn more about Doors to Diplomacy projects, visit  
<<http://globalschoolhouse.org/doors/>>.

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\* The Metodi Mitevski Brico School in Delcevo has participated in several programs and activities supported by the U.S. Mission in Macedonia. These include the USAID e-Schools Project, the State Department's School Connectivity Project, and the Peace Corps. The U.S. Embassy in Skopje congratulates the students and staff of Metodi Mitevski Brico School for their high achievement in being named a winner in the worldwide Doors to Diplomacy Competition.